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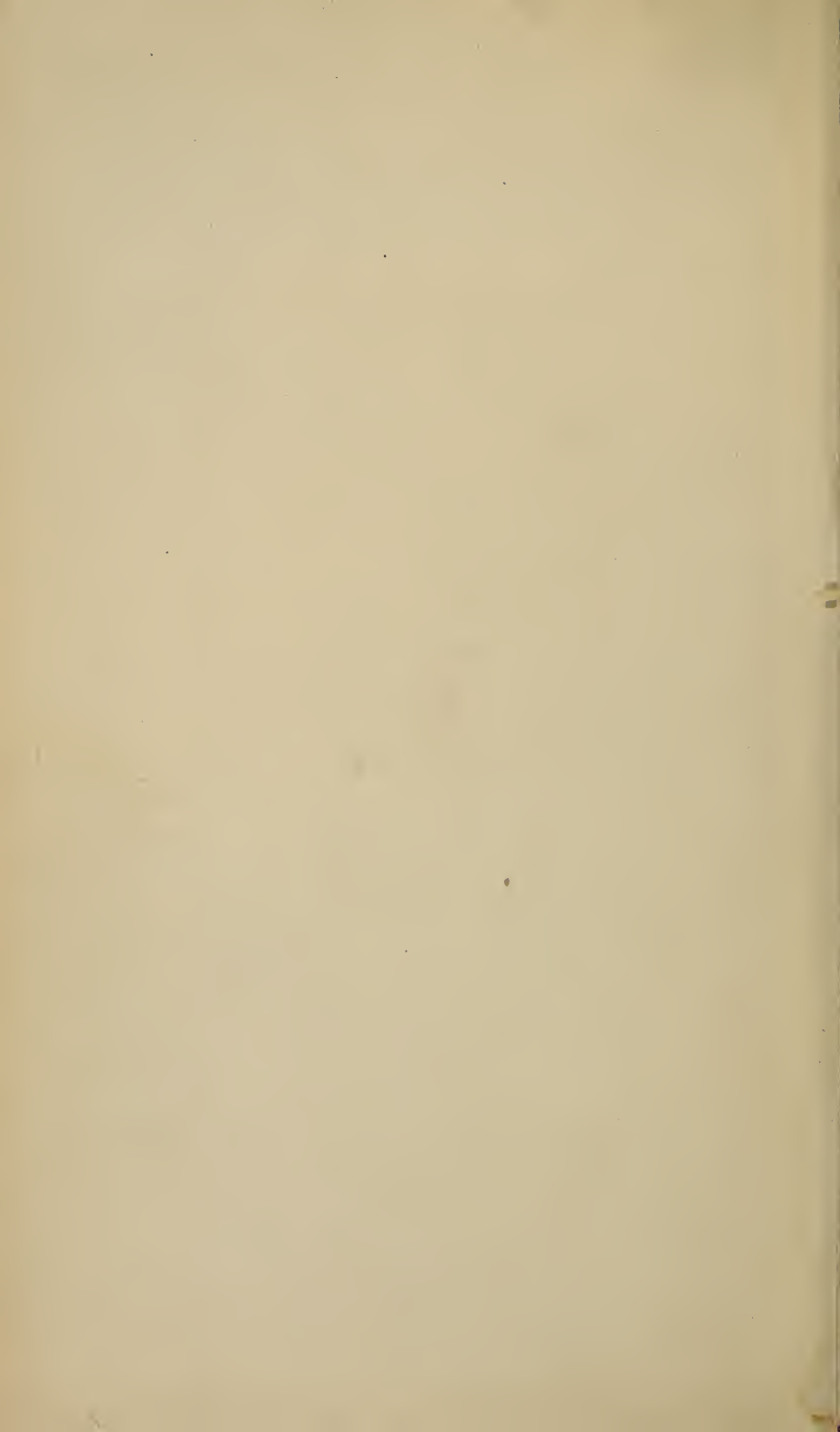
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# HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION

OF THE

## PAUPER BOYS' SCHOOL,

AT

DEER ISLAND, BOSTON HARBOR,

7572.189  
UNDER THE MANAGEMENT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
FOR PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS.

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*Prepared for the Massachusetts Exhibit in the Department of Education and  
Science at the International Exhibition in Philadelphia, 1876.*

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# HISTORY OF THE PAUPER BOYS' SCHOOL.

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OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS,  
30 PEMBERTON SQUARE, BOSTON, Jan. 26, 1876.

The building in connection with the City Almshouse at Deer Island, designated as the "Pauper Boys' School," was erected during the financial year 1869-70, at an expense of \$39,868. Previous to this date the pauper children had been domiciled in the main building of the House of Industry, at Deer Island. In the Annual Report for the year ending April 30th, 1867, the Board of Directors for Public Institutions referred to the condition of the pauper children in the following language:—

"We have for a long time felt dissatisfied with the accommodations for the pauper boys in the main building, but they were the best that it was possible to give them. The difficulty has been the impossibility of keeping these boys from association with the pauper men, as they from necessity have a common sitting and dining room. It was to be expected, and it was the fact, that the influence of the one on the other was anything but beneficial. The language and conversation of some of these men, whose irregular life has brought them to the Almshouse, are not calculated to encourage purity of thought and correctness of life in young boys, whose future character depends largely upon the influences which surround them. We therefore thought it our duty to make some other provision for them, and for this purpose have taken the old building formerly occupied for a dairy, and intend to thoroughly fit it up for their accommodation, so that in the future they may be a family by themselves, and free from all injuri-

ous influences. When this is completed, we think it will be found to be the greatest improvement which has been made upon the Island since the girls of the Reform School were placed in a building by themselves."

The boys were accordingly removed to the building which had been provided for them, and in the year 1868 the City Council, convinced of the practicability of the measure, granted a special appropriation for the erection of a brick building for the pauper girls. Upon its completion, however, as the number of boys was greatly in excess of that of the girls, it was thought best by the Board of Directors to transfer the boys to the new building, and place the girls in the building which had been fitted up for and occupied by the boys.

The following is an accurate and detailed description of the building, prepared by the architect who superintended its construction : —

"The building occupied by the pauper boys, although nominally a two-story building, has four finished stories, and a cellar. The main building is 78 feet long by 41 feet wide. From the centre of the easterly end projects a staircase 15 feet square, which connects with a boiler-house 32 feet by 41 feet, on the easterly side of which is a corridor 20 feet long by 8 feet wide, connecting with the building occupied by the pauper girls, making the whole length of the new building 143 feet. The lot on which the group stands lies between two streets, with a difference in level between them of about 16 feet; the ground sloping gradually from the higher down to the lower street, and from the westerly towards the easterly end of the group. The principal or entrance front is on the high street. The first or principal floor of the main building is about 6 feet above the ground at the westerly end, and is approached by a flight of stone steps and an entrance near each end of the building. At the easterly end the basement story is entered through the corridor



from the upper side on a level with the ground, while on the lower side the ground is on a level with the boiler-room, which is on a level with the cellar floor, so there are entrances to the cellar, basement and first story above the ground outside of the buildings. On the upper side the main building shows two full stories in height, and a French roof or attic story; on the lower side three full stories and attic. The boiler-house is one story high on the upper side and two stories high on the lower side, with a hipped roof. The basement, first, second and attic stories are finished; the basement 10 feet high, the first, second and attic stories each 12 feet high. The cellar under the main building is 7 feet high. The lower story or cellar of the boiler-house is 9 feet high. The arrangement of the first or principal story, commencing at the westerly end of the main building, is an entrance with a vestibule opening into a hall 12 feet wide and extending across the full width of the building. A staircase communicates with the upper stories and with the basement. In this hall the boys deposit their hats before passing into the school-room, or up to the dormitories. From the hall two doorways lead to a school-room 28 feet by 38 feet, extending entirely across the building, and lighted on each side by three large windows fitted with inside blinds. Next adjoining this larger room is a smaller school-room 18 by 38 feet. The remaining portion of the story is appropriated to a parlor for the keeper's family, an entrance, vestibule, hall and large store closet. A door in the easterly end wall of the main building leads to the staircase before spoken of. The staircase at the easterly end leads up to a passage in the centre of the main building, on either side of which is a room 15 feet square. One is a matron's room, the other a bedroom for the keeper's family. Beyond these two rooms, and at the end of the passage, is a dormitory for the boys, 38 feet wide by 47 feet long, occupying the whole space over the school-rooms, and lighted by

five windows on each side. The staircase at the westerly end occupies the middle portion of the end of the building, on either side of which is a small bed-room. In the attic story, at the westerly end, is the teacher's room and a store-room for clothing and bedding. The space over the large dormitory in the second story is divided into two rooms corresponding in width with the school-rooms in the first story; the larger room is used as a dormitory, the smaller room as a hospital. At the easterly end, over the keeper's rooms, are two rooms, one for the nurse, the other for an additional bedroom. Descending to the basement story, at the westerly end is an entry with a door leading to the yard and play-ground in the rear, and with a flight of stairs leading down to the cellar under the main building, which is used as a play-room in stormy weather. The entry opens into the staircase hall, which communicates with the stories above, and with a bath-room and lavatory under the large school-room, 16 feet by 28 feet, which is fitted up with seven iron bath-tubs, supplied with hot and cold water, and a wash-sink 24 feet long, back of which are the towel-racks. The remaining space under the school-room is used as a play-room at present, though designed for an additional dining-room whenever it may be required for that purpose. Under the smaller school-room is the boys' dining room, 18 feet by 38 feet, extending across the building and lighted from both sides. Opening from the dining-room is a large dish closet, back of which and in the front corner of the building is a large store-room. In the opposite rear corner is the officers' dining room, fifteen feet square. A passage in the centre of the building leads from the boys' dining-room, through the easterly staircase, boiler-house and corridor, to the building occupied by the girls, the first floor of which is on the same level as the basement floor of the new buildings. At the westerly end of the girls' building is the kitchen, in which, at present, is done the cooking for both branches of the es-

tablishment, although the upper floor of the boiler-house, which is on a level with the basement floor of the new building, is designed eventually to be used as a kitchen and laundry for both houses. On the lower floor of the boiler-house, on the side of the lower street, is the boiler-room, in which are two steam boilers, from which both buildings are warmed throughout. On the front or higher side is a large coal cellar, into which the coals are dumped from the level of the ground above. On the lower floor of the boiler-house, in one corner, are the house servants' privies, over which, on the upper floor, are the officers' privies, in all of which have been placed the 'Dry-Earth Closets,' which have thus far proved very satisfactory, as they obviate the foul smells which proceed from the ordinary vaults.

"The inequality in the surface of the ground around the buildings before alluded to has been taken advantage of, and has conduced greatly in rendering the varied accommodations and requirements convenient and easy of access. The whole has been planned with a view to rendering the institution as home-like and comfortable as possible without incurring the charge of extravagant and useless expenditure. Particular care was bestowed upon the arrangement of the principal rooms to be occupied by the children, that they should be light, airy, and well-ventilated, with plenty of sunlight in the dormitories and hospital. The principal school-room is not surpassed by any in the city for lightness, airiness, and ventilation. The finish of the rooms, as also of the whole building, is of hard and white pine, varnished directly on the wood. The doors, and portions of the finish around the doors, and the blinds to the windows, are of white pine; the wall lining and front finish around the doors and windows of yellow southern pine; the jambs of the doors are of white and yellow pine, mixed; the effect of which, in conjunction with the white-pine doors and yellow-pine finish and wall lining, is very beautiful, as well as neat and tidy. The

varnish brings out beauties which are too often covered with paint and coarse imitations of the beauties underneath.

"The school-rooms, dormitories and hospital are warmed by hot and pure air, conveyed to the rooms through tin pipes leading from the steam apparatus located in the cellar. Each room has two registers for the admission of warm and pure air, and two ventiducts connecting with a ventilator cap on the roof, for the escape of the vitiated air. The smaller rooms at the ends of the building are warmed by direct radiation from the heating surface placed in the rooms, and ventilated by metallic ventilators set in the chimney-flues.

"The building is designed to accommodate one hundred boys, but provision has been made for an extension of the building, at the westerly end, whenever more accommodations are needed.

"The external walls and principal partitions of the whole are built of bricks. The underpinning is of split granite. A dressed granite belt at the height of the first floor marks the division between the upper and lower stories. The cornices are wholly of bricks with copper gutters. All of the roofs are slated with Virginia slates. All of the materials are first-rate in quality, and the work has been done in the most thorough manner; and although the buildings are simple in their outlines, and not showy in external details, yet from their commanding position and good proportions they produce a very good effect when seen from approaches to the Island and institutions. A considerable portion of the labor in the erection of the buildings has been performed by the inmates of the institutions, thereby saving a considerable expense to the city. The appropriation for the work was \$40,000. The buildings have been finished and furnished within the appropriation.

"A thus full and detailed description of the buildings has been given, because those whose sympathies are enlisted in behalf of soldiers' orphaned children, as well as those of other

unfortunates, have sometimes complained that such children are not properly housed and cared for ; and that all having an interest in the matter may know that the city has made liberal provision for such, and that they are the objects of the tender care of the Directors for Public Institutions and of the Superintendent of the Institutions at the Island, and of those having the children directly under their care. The home now provided for these little unfortunates is *more* than comfortable, and is not surpassed, if it is equalled, by any similar institution in the country."

Previous to the erection of this building the following statute was enacted by the State Legislature, being Chapter 283, Acts of 1866, approved May 29, 1866 :—

#### "CHAPTER 283.

*"An Act concerning the care and education of neglected children.*

"SECTION 1. Each of the several cities and towns in this commonwealth is hereby authorized and empowered to make all needful provisions and arrangements concerning children under sixteen years of age, who, by reason of the neglect, crime, drunkenness or other vices of parents, or from orphanage, are suffered to be growing up without salutary parental control and education, or in circumstances exposing them to lead idle and dissolute lives ; and may also make all such by-laws and ordinances respecting such children, as shall be deemed most conducive to their welfare and the good order of such city or town ; *provided*, that said by-laws and ordinances shall be approved by the supreme judicial court, or any two justices thereof, and shall not be repugnant to the laws of the commonwealth.

SECT. 2. The mayor and aldermen of cities and the selectmen of towns, availing themselves of the provisions of this act, shall severally appoint suitable persons to make



complaints in case of violations of such ordinances or by-laws as may be adopted, who alone shall be authorized to make complaints under the authority of this act.

"SECT. 3. When it shall be proved to any judge of the superior court, or judge or justice of a municipal or police court, or to any trial justice, that any child under sixteen years of age, by reason of orphanage, or of the neglect, crime, drunkenness, or other vice of parents, is growing up without education or salutary control, and in circumstances exposing said child to an idle and dissolute life, any judge or justice aforesaid shall have power to order said child to such institution of instruction or other place that may be assigned for the purpose, as provided in this act, by the authorities of the city or town in which such child may reside, for such term of time as said judge or justice may deem expedient, not extending beyond the age of twenty-one years for males, or eighteen years for females, to be there kept, educated and cared for according to law.

"SECT. 4. Whenever it shall be satisfactorily proved that the parents of any child committed under the provisions of this act shall have reformed and are leading orderly and industrious lives, and are in a condition to exercise salutary parental control over their children, and to provide them with proper education and employment; or, whenever said parents being dead, any person may offer to make suitable provision for the care, nurture, and education of such child as will conduce to the public welfare, and will give satisfactory security for the performance of the same, then the directors, trustees, overseers, or other board having charge of the institution to which such child may be committed, may discharge said child to the parents or to the party making provision for the care of the child as aforesaid."

In conformity with this statute, the City Council of Boston, in June, 1870, by ordinance designated the House of

Reformation for Juvenile Offenders as the place of detention for neglected children, and commitments were made to that institution accordingly.

## "NEGLECTED CHILDREN.

### "ORDINANCE.

"SECTION 1. The House of Employment and Reformation for Juvenile Offenders is hereby assigned and provided as the place to which children under sixteen years of age, living in the City of Boston, in the condition described in chapter two hundred and eighty-three of the acts of the year eighteen hundred and sixty-six, shall be sent by any of the judges of the Superior or Municipal Courts, upon the complaint of any of the officers appointed by the Mayor and Aldermen, under the second section of said chapter two hundred and eighty-three; and the Board of Directors for Public Institutions shall have and exercise the same control over the children sent to said institution as herein provided, that they have and exercise over children sentenced and committed under the provisions of chapter one hundred and eighty-two of the acts of the year eighteen hundred and twenty-five."

[Approved June 3, 1870.]

In the Fifteenth Annual Report made to the City Council, under date of May 24th, 1872, the Board of Directors thus allude to the commitment of the Neglected Children to the House of Reformation: —

"The building for the children of the Almshouse department, erected three years since, has proved very useful, and in every respect answers all expectations. In this connection the Board would recommend a change in the ordinance relating to 'Neglected Children.' Under the present law, these children, by reason of the crime, drunkenness, or vice of their parents, are committed to the House of Reformation

for Juvenile Offenders, and are thus associated in the reformatory with those who are sentenced for their own misdeeds. It is suggested that the ordinance be modified so as to commit these children to the custody of the Board of Directors, to be placed in such of the institutions as in the discretion of the Board may be for their best interests."

In compliance with this recommendation of the Board, the City Council repealed the ordinance, and enacted the following, dated May 23, 1873 :—

### "NEGLECTED CHILDREN.

#### "ORDINANCE.

"SECTION 1. The Almshouse at Deer Island is hereby assigned and provided as the place to which children under sixteen years of age, living in the City of Boston, in the condition described in chapter two hundred and eighty-three of the acts of the year eighteen hundred and sixty-six, may be sent by any of the judges of the Superior or Municipal Courts, upon the complaint of any of the officers appointed by the Mayor and Aldermen, under the second section of said chapter two hundred and eighty-three, and the Board of Directors for Public Institutions shall have and exercise the same control over the children sent to said institutions, as herein provided, that they may have and exercise over children sentenced and committed under the provisions of chapter one hundred and eighty-two of the acts of the year eighteen hundred and twenty-five.

"SECT. 2. The ordinance providing for the care and education of neglected children, passed the third day of June, A.D. 1870, is hereby repealed; the repeal to take effect upon the approval of this ordinance, by the Superior Court, or a

justice thereof, as provided in the first section of chapter two hundred and eighty-three of the acts of the year eighteen hundred and sixty-six."

[Approved by the Superior Court, May 23, 1873.]

The children who had been committed under the provisions of the former ordinance to the House of Reformation were accordingly transferred to the Pauper School.

The number of children in this school on the first day of January, 1876, was 151, classified as follows:—

#### PAUPER CHILDREN.

Boys, 61 ; Girls, 32 ; Total	.	.	.	.	.	93
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#### NEGLECTED CHILDREN.

Boys, 53 ; Girls, 5 ; Total .	.	.	.	.	.	58
						<hr/> 151

These are divided into three classes, for instruction in the ordinary English branches, under one male and two female teachers. The institution is under the charge of the Superintendent of the Institutions at Deer Island. The inmates are happy and contented, and their progress in education has been commendable and encouraging.

J. P. BRADLEE,  
*President.*











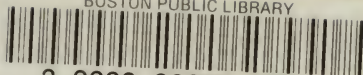
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